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BUREAU OF EMPLOYMENT SECURITY
Division of Economic Analysis and Research

LABOR MARKET DIGEST

February 1988

The Labor Market Information Newsletter on Maine Economic Activity

Child care is *THE* issue now

Employers are beginning to face up to the child-care issue--at least one in 20 now offer either direct or indirect care. A special nationwide survey last summer by the Bureau of Labor Statistics found that about 2 percent of establishments with 10 or more employees sponsor day-care centers, and an additional 3 percent contribute to child-care expenses. Overall, one in ten establishments report some specific child-care benefits, including information and referrals to child care facilities, and counseling.

These shares are probably small relative to what we will see as employers confront a slow growth workforce in which women will play an ever larger role. Already, the industries that use large numbers of women workers--services and government--are taking the lead, as the table on page 2 indicates.

Right now employers' preferred response is to modify work practices to help parents. The BLS survey found that about three in five establishments make some concession to employees' family needs, with such policies as flextime, voluntary part-time, or flexible leave.

Employers are measuring their response according to their resources. Large firms tend to pay in money: over 30 percent of establishments with 250 or more employees provide direct child-care benefits, compared to less than 10 percent of those with fewer than 50 employees. Small establishments tend to pay in time: although roughly 60 percent of establishments of all sizes offer some flexibility in work scheduling for child care, flextime and voluntary part-time are more prevalent in small establishments.

As the table (on page 2) shows, government agencies are much more likely to provide direct child-care benefits--continuing their reliance on benefits rather than pay to attract and keep employees. Almost 10 percent of government offices in the survey sponsored day-care centers, compared to fewer than 2 percent of private establishments. Other child-care services, such as counseling or information and referral, are also more prevalent in government. However, private employers are as likely as public ones to help employees with child-care expenses.

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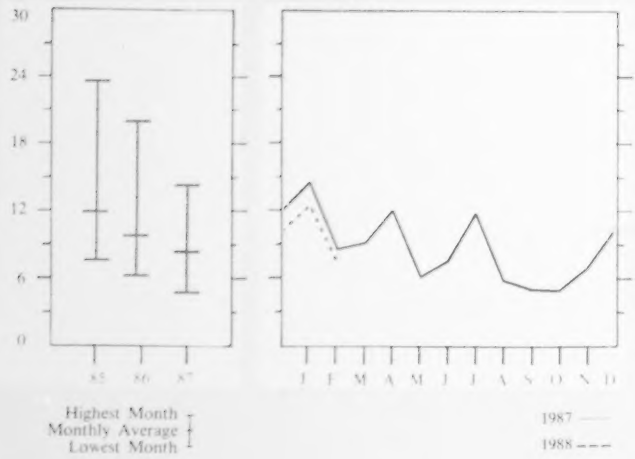
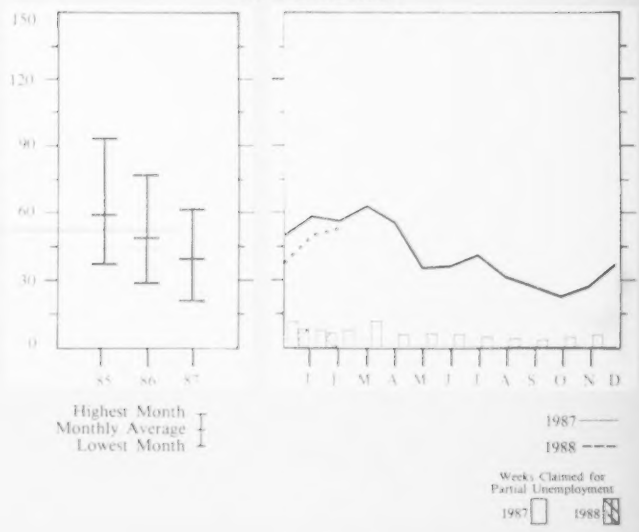
UI Initial Claims

in Thousands



UI Intrastate Weeks Claimed

in Thousands



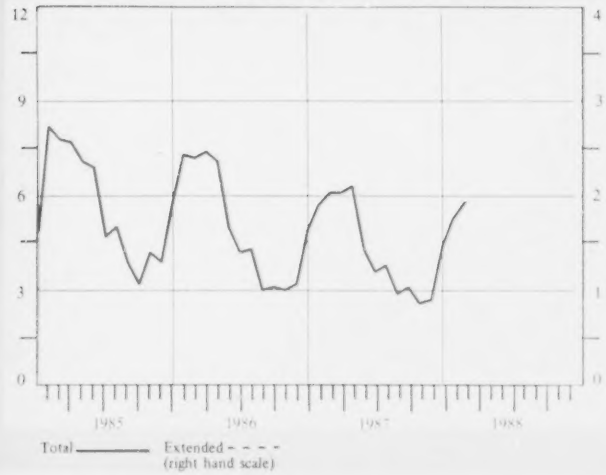
Child-Care Benefits and Work Schedule Policies

	Private sector			
	Total	*Goods-producing*	*Service-producing*	*Government*
Total Establishments (thousands)	1,128	272	856	74
Percent providing child-care benefits or services	10.1%	6.3%	11.3%	26.4%
Employer sponsored day care	1.6	.3	2.0	9.4
Assisted with child-care expenses	3.1	1.9	3.5	2.9
Child-care information and referral services	4.3	2.3	5.0	15.8
Counseling service	4.2	3.0	4.6	18.2
Other child-care benefits	.9	.6	1.0	2.3
Percent with work schedule policies aiding child-care	61.4	51.3	64.6	57.2
Flextime	43.6	31.3	47.5	37.5
Voluntary part-time	35.5	22.4	39.4	26.7
Job sharing	15.0	9.0	16.9	23.5
Work at home	8.5	8.2	8.6	4.0
Flexible leave	42.9	37.3	44.6	43.7
Other leave or work schedule policies	1.8	1.3	1.9	7.1
Percent with no child-care benefits or policies	36.6	46.4	33.5	39.6

Selected Employment Security Activities

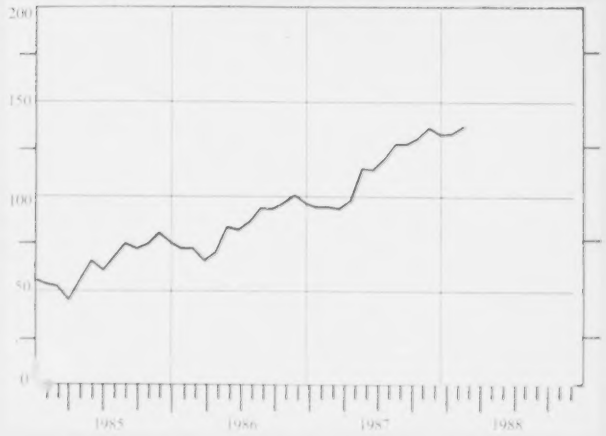
UI Benefit Payments
in Millions

(Total Includes Maine's Portion of Extended Benefits)



Unemployment Compensation Fund Balance in Millions

(End of Month)



Nonfarm Wage and Salary Employment by Place of Work
in Thousands

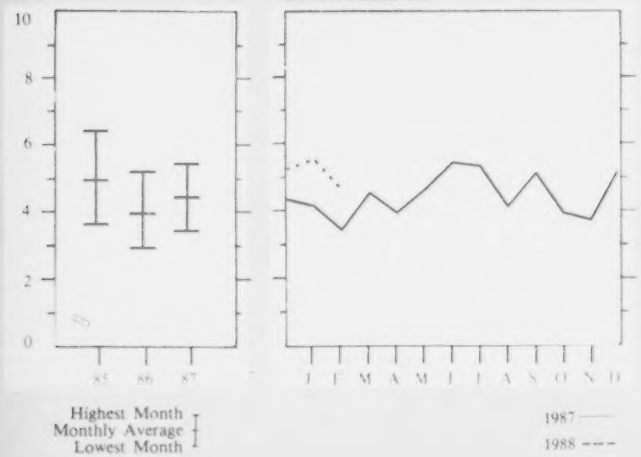
ITEM	STATEWIDE This Month	STATEWIDE Last Month	STATEWIDE Year Ago	PORTLAND MSA This Month	PORTLAND MSA Last Month	PORTLAND MSA Year Ago	LEWISTON-AUBURN MSA This Month	LEWISTON-AUBURN MSA Last Month	LEWISTON-AUBURN MSA Year Ago
Total Nonfarm Wage and Salary Employment 1/	507.1	503.6	476.4	122.8	122.5	116.6	39.8	39.7	38.2
Total Manufacturing	106.0	106.1	102.8	16.2	16.2	16.1	10.5	10.4	9.9
Durable Goods	49.7	49.9	46.7	7.9	7.9	7.8	2.8	2.8	2.8
Lumber and Wood Products	13.6	13.9	14.0	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.3	0.3	0.3
Primary and Fabricated Metals	3.5	3.5	3.5	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.8	0.8	0.8
Industrial Machinery and Equipment	4.6	4.5	4.2	2.3	2.3	2.2	0.2	0.2	0.3
Electronic and Other Electric Equipment	11.5	11.5	10.1	3.3	3.3	3.3	0.8	0.8	0.8
Transportation Equipment 2/	11.8	11.7	10.6	(d)	(d)	(d)	0.2	0.2	0.2
Other Durable Goods 3/	4.7	4.8	4.3	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.5	0.5	0.4
Nondurable Goods	56.3	56.2	56.1	8.3	8.3	8.3	7.7	7.6	7.1
Food and Kindred Products	7.3	7.3	7.6	2.0	2.0	1.9	0.9	0.9	0.8
Textile Mill Products	6.7	6.8	6.9	(d)	(d)	(d)	1.3	1.3	1.2
Apparel and Other Textile Products	3.1	3.1	3.5	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1
Paper and Allied Products	17.0	16.9	17.0	(d)	(d)	(d)	0.5	0.5	0.5
Printing and Publishing	5.4	5.4	5.1	1.5	1.6	1.5	0.7	0.7	0.6
Rubber and Misc. Plastic Products	3.8	3.6	3.4	0.2	0.2	0.2	1.8	1.7	1.6
Leather and Leather Products	12.0	12.2	11.6	1.6	1.6	1.3	2.3	2.3	2.2
Footwear (except Rubber)	10.0	10.2	9.6	n/a	n/a	n/a	1.8	1.8	1.7
Other Nondurable Goods 4/	1.0	0.9	1.0	2.8	2.7	3.2	0.1	0.1	0.1
Total Nonmanufacturing	401.1	397.5	373.6	106.6	106.3	100.5	29.3	29.3	28.3
Construction and Mining	28.5	29.0	25.3	8.8	8.7	7.2	2.0	2.1	1.8
Building Construction	11.0	11.4	10.0	2.6	2.6	2.5	0.4	0.5	0.4
Special Trades Contractor	13.3	13.2	11.8	5.0	4.8	3.8	1.5	1.5	1.3
Transportation and Public Utilities	20.2	20.2	19.7	6.0	6.0	5.8	1.4	1.4	1.4
Wholesale Trade	24.4	24.4	22.8	9.7	9.7	9.2	2.0	2.0	1.9
Retail Trade	101.0	101.4	90.1	25.3	25.8	25.2	7.6	7.7	7.4
Food Stores	19.9	19.5	17.2	4.2	4.3	4.0	1.4	1.4	1.4
Eating and Drinking Places	29.0	28.8	25.2	7.0	7.0	6.9	2.3	2.3	2.2
Finance, Insurance and Real Estate	24.9	25.1	23.9	12.2	12.3	11.5	2.2	2.2	2.1
Banking	8.8	8.8	8.5	3.1	3.0	2.9	0.9	0.9	0.8
Insurance Carriers, Brokers and Agents	10.1	10.2	9.7	5.8	5.8	5.2	0.6	0.6	0.6
Services	109.0	108.2	101.8	28.9	29.1	26.2	10.1	10.0	9.8
Hotels and Other Lodging Places	6.1	5.9	5.6	2.3	2.2	1.3	0.3	0.3	0.2
Business Services	11.3	11.3	11.1	4.7	4.8	4.5	0.9	1.0	0.8
Health Services	42.3	42.1	39.7	10.1	10.1	9.6	4.1	4.1	4.1
Federal Government	18.5	18.5	17.8	1.9	1.9	1.9	0.3	0.3	0.3
State and Local Government 5/	74.6	70.7	72.2	13.8	12.8	13.5	3.7	3.6	3.6
Involved in Labor-Management Disputes	1.6	1.6	0.0	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

1/ Employment figures relate to full- and part-time wage and salary workers in pay periods including the 12th of the month. Domestic workers in private households, proprietors, self-employed, and unpaid family workers are excluded. 2/ Transportation equipment and instruments are combined in the Lewiston series. 3/ Includes Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) codes: Statewide - 25, 32, 38, 39; Portland - 25, 32, 38, 39; Lewiston - 25, 32, 39. 4/ Includes SIC codes: Statewide - 28, 29; Portland - 22, 26, 28, 29; Lewiston - 28, 29. 5/ Regular teachers are included in summer months whether or not specifically paid in those months. n/a - data not available in sufficient detail for publication. *Less than 50. (d) Nondisclosure item.

THESE DATA ARE DEVELOPED BY THE MAINE BUREAU OF EMPLOYMENT SECURITY IN COOPERATION WITH THE U.S. BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS.

New Applications For Work

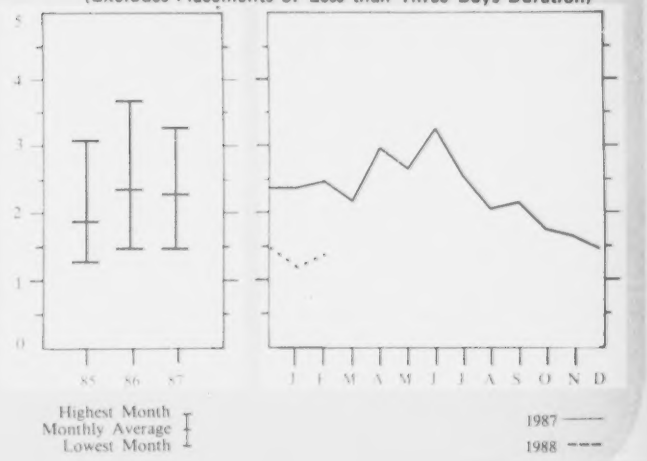
in Thousands



Nonfarm Placements

in Thousands

(Excludes Placements of Less than Three Days Duration)



Earnings and Workweek of Production Workers in Manufacturing Industries

AREA AND INDUSTRY	AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS			AVERAGE WEEKLY HOURS			AVERAGE HOURLY EARNINGS			ANNUAL AVERAGE HOURLY EARNINGS		
	This Month	Last Month	Year Ago	This Month	Last Month	Year Ago	This Month	Last Month	Year Ago	1987	1986	1985
STATEWIDE												
Manufacturing	$356.00	$363.67	$359.26	40.0	41.0	41.2	$8.90	$8.87	$8.72	$8.77	$8.65	$8.40
Durable Goods	344.83	362.09	347.77	41.1	42.8	41.9	8.39	8.46	8.30	8.32	8.52	8.46
Lumber and Wood Products	346.04	335.96	315.43	41.0	39.9	40.7	8.44	8.42	7.75	7.82	7.74	8.06
Primary and Fabricated Metals	391.67	406.00	389.58	44.2	46.4	41.8	8.86	8.75	9.32	8.94	8.58	8.25
Industrial Machinery and Equipment	392.94	452.48	372.48	44.5	50.5	37.7	8.83	8.96	9.88	9.20	9.62	9.11
Electronic and Other Electric Equipment	338.66	340.47	326.43	41.0	42.4	40.5	8.26	8.03	8.06	8.03	7.94	7.57
Other Durable Goods	374.32	370.23	380.84	39.6	43.0	45.5	8.19	8.62	8.37	8.60	9.41	9.50
Nondurable Goods	365.27	364.31	368.65	38.9	39.3	40.6	9.39	9.27	9.08	9.18	8.76	8.31
Food and Kindred Products	251.69	252.45	258.11	35.3	34.3	35.7	7.13	7.36	7.23	7.16	7.00	6.63
Textile Mill Products	283.50	300.11	309.44	37.8	40.5	43.4	7.50	7.41	7.13	7.35	7.04	6.64
Apparel and Other Textile Products	207.74	211.90	221.36	34.0	35.2	38.1	6.11	6.02	5.81	5.92	5.73	5.83
Paper and Allied Products	605.22	585.61	589.12	44.6	43.8	44.8	13.57	13.37	13.15	13.43	12.70	12.25
Leather and Leather Products	236.60	242.35	232.25	36.4	37.4	37.1	6.50	6.48	6.26	6.34	6.05	5.93
Other Nondurable Goods	315.00	327.64	341.65	37.5	38.5	40.1	8.40	8.51	8.52	8.28	8.00	7.51
PORTLAND MSA												
Manufacturing	377.85	378.42	361.34	39.9	42.0	38.4	9.47	9.01	9.41	9.13	9.17	8.90
LEWISTON-AUBURN MSA												
Manufacturing	304.98	311.89	297.82	39.0	40.4	40.3	7.82	7.72	7.39	7.40	7.19	6.78

Female Labor Force in Maine

in Thousands

ITEM	This Month 1/	Last Month 2/	Year Ago
Labor Force	258.5	261.3	243.1
Unemployed	11.9	13.3	13.8
(Percent)	4.6%	5.1%	5.7%
Resident Employed	246.6	248.0	229.3

U.S. Consumer Price Index

BASE PERIOD (1982 - 1984 = 100) All Items	This Month	Last Month	Year Ago	Last Dec
	116.0	115.7	111.6	115.4

Percent Change for Past Month	+0.3%
Percent Change from Last December	+0.5%
Percent Change from 12 Months Ago	+3.9%

1/ Preliminary estimates 2/ Revised

Labor Force, Employment and Unemployment

in Thousands

AREA 1/	LABOR FORCE 2/			RESIDENT EMPLOYED			UNEMPLOYMENT Number			UNEMPLOYMENT Percent of Labor Force		
	This Month	Last Month	Year Ago	This Month	Last Month	Year Ago	This Month	Last Month	Year Ago	This Month	Last Month	Year Ago
MAINE-Statewide	585.0	592.5	550.2	554.3	560.0	518.9	30.7	32.5	31.2	5.2	5.5	5.7
MAJOR LABOR MARKETS												
Bangor MSA	42,000	41,000	41,200	40,100	39,100	39,000	1,900	1,900	2,200	4.5	4.6	5.3
Lewiston-Auburn MSA	41,900	42,600	40,200	39,600	40,000	37,600	2,300	2,600	2,600	5.5	6.1	6.5
Portland MSA	124,300	126,200	116,600	120,900	122,600	113,200	3,400	3,600	3,400	2.7	2.9	2.9
Portsmouth-Dover-Rochester MSA 3/	n/a	131,000	123,100	n/a	127,000	119,200	n/a	4,000	3,900	n/a	3.1	3.2
OTHER LABOR MARKETS												
Augusta	33,670	34,000	31,480	31,910	32,340	29,580	1,760	1,660	1,900	5.2	4.9	6.0
Bath-Brunswick	28,550	28,580	26,410	27,490	27,380	25,440	1,060	1,200	970	3.7	4.2	3.7
Belfast	11,470	11,680	10,680	10,280	10,560	9,620	1,190	1,120	1,060	10.4	9.6	9.9
Biddeford	26,310	26,890	25,010	25,230	25,690	23,490	1,080	1,200	1,520	4.1	4.5	6.1
Boothbay Harbor-Wiscasset	13,110	13,390	11,620	12,520	12,660	11,000	590	730	620	4.5	5.5	5.3
Calais-Eastport	14,170	14,460	12,860	12,620	12,610	11,400	1,550	1,850	1,460	10.9	12.8	11.4
Caribou-Presque Isle	21,480	21,650	20,740	19,580	19,620	18,550	1,900	2,030	2,190	8.8	9.4	10.6
Central Penobscot	2,780	2,790	2,640	2,590	2,560	2,440	190	230	200	6.8	8.2	7.6
Dover-Foxcroft	6,970	7,020	6,550	6,450	6,510	6,160	520	510	390	7.5	7.3	6.0
Ellsworth	21,020	21,910	19,390	19,140	19,690	17,540	1,880	2,220	1,850	8.9	10.1	9.5
Farmington	12,770	12,490	12,070	12,100	11,890	11,350	670	600	720	5.2	4.8	6.0
Fort Kent-Allagash	5,380	5,300	5,180	4,980	4,860	4,750	400	440	430	7.4	8.3	8.3
Greenville	1,490	1,590	1,330	1,420	1,440	1,260	70	150	70	4.7	9.4	5.3
Houlton	6,010	6,190	5,600	5,690	5,820	5,250	320	370	350	5.3	6.0	6.3
Kittery-York 3/	29,610	30,090	27,720	28,870	29,330	27,100	740	760	620	2.5	2.5	2.2
Lincoln-Howland	5,610	5,580	5,060	5,300	5,310	4,770	310	270	290	5.5	4.8	5.7
Livermore Falls	4,030	4,200	4,010	3,680	3,910	3,630	350	290	380	8.7	6.9	9.5
Madawaska-Van Buren	3,940	3,930	3,520	3,490	3,480	3,140	450	450	380	11.4	11.5	10.8
Millinocket-East Millinocket	3,990	4,180	3,970	3,730	3,800	3,750	260	380	220	6.5	9.1	5.5
Norway-Paris	12,270	12,680	11,000	11,590	11,920	10,390	680	760	610	5.5	6.0	5.5
Patten-Island Falls	2,330	2,350	2,190	2,160	2,170	2,030	170	180	160	7.3	7.7	7.3
Rockland	18,020	18,290	16,650	16,900	17,210	15,700	1,120	1,080	950	6.2	5.9	5.7
Rumford	8,640	8820	8,130	7,950	8,140	7,580	690	680	550	8.0	7.7	6.8
Sanford	16,280	16,640	14,850	15,480	15,740	14,030	800	900	820	4.9	5.4	5.5
Sebago Lakes Region	10,710	10,900	10,330	10,290	10,490	9,900	420	410	430	3.9	3.8	4.2
Skowhegan	22,140	22,610	21,160	20,370	20,810	19,350	1,770	1,800	1,810	8.0	8.0	8.6
Southwest Penobscot	10,440	10,530	9,850	9,520	9,680	8,960	920	850	890	8.8	8.1	9.0
Waterville	23,640	23,950	22,190	22,340	22,630	20,950	1,300	1,320	1,240	5.5	5.5	5.6
OTHER NEW ENGLAND STATES												
Connecticut	n/a	1,722.0	1,721.8	n/a	1,658.2	1,653.3	n/a	63.8	68.5	n/a	3.7	4.0
Massachusetts	3,101.0	3,107.0	3,011.0	2,985.0	2,989.0	2,893.0	116.0	118.0	118.0	3.7	3.8	3.9
New Hampshire	n/a	596.0	558.3	n/a	575.5	541.7	n/a	19.5	16.6	n/a	3.3	3.0
Rhode Island	518.5	520.4	506.2	496.0	499.7	484.0	22.5	20.7	22.2	4.3	4.0	4.4
Vermont	n/a	302.1	286.4	n/a	289.7	272.3	n/a	12.4	14.1	n/a	4.1	4.9
NEW ENGLAND STATES	n/a	6,839.0	6,633.8	n/a	6,572.1	6,363.2	n/a	266.9	270.6	n/a	3.9	4.1
UNITED STATES 4/	119,942	119,742	117,967	112,460	112,139	109,464	7,482	7,603	8,503	6.2	6.3	7.2

MSA-Metropolitan Statistical Area

Note
n/a indicates that the information was not available at the time of printing.
Employment and unemployment may not add to labor force due to rounding.

Footnotes

1/ Labor force, employment, and unemployment data for all areas not seasonally adjusted. Estimates made independently for each labor market area have been benchmarked to and extrapolated from the Current Population Survey estimates for the state. All data adjusted to place of residence basis. Excludes members of the Armed Forces.

2/ Current and last month figures preliminary, year ago figures revised.

3/ Kittery-York is the eight-town Maine portion of the Portsmouth-Dover-Rochester MSA which includes towns in both Maine and New Hampshire.

4/ National estimates based on a sample of household visits; state estimates based on enlargements of employment figures reported.

THESE DATA ARE DEVELOPED BY THE MAINE BUREAU OF EMPLOYMENT SECURITY IN COOPERATION WITH THE U.S. BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS.

Mid-Month Insured Unemployment (Less Partials)

ITEM	STATEWIDE			PORTLAND MSA			LEWISTON-AUBURN MSA		
	This Month	Last Month	Year Ago	This Month	Last Month	Year Ago	This Month	Last Month	Year Ago
Number of Continued Week Claimants	10,549	10,039	12,759	1,059	1,009	1,332	823	862	1,069
Insured Unemployment Rate *	2.2	2.1	2.8	1.0	0.9	1.3	2.2	2.3	3.0

* Should not be confused with insured unemployment rates as defined in the Employment Security Law.

Selected Characteristics Of Unemployment Insurance Claimants

REGULAR PROGRAM

PERCENT DISTRIBUTION BY OCCUPATION

CATEGORY	This Month	Last Month	Year Ago
Professional, Technical, and Managerial	7.7	8.0	6.5
Clerical and Sales	12.6	13.0	14.4
Service	12.5	13.0	11.6
Agricultural, Fishery, Forestry, and Related	3.5	3.2	3.3
Processing	4.7	4.4	5.6
Machine Trades	7.6	8.5	10.1
Benchwork	5.9	6.5	10.3
Structural Work	27.3	26.2	21.4
Miscellaneous	17.4	17.1	16.8

PERCENT DISTRIBUTION BY AGE

CATEGORY	This Month	Last Month	Year Ago
Total under 40	60.1	57.2	59.8
Under 22	4.8	4.6	5.1
22-24	9.9	9.2	9.8
25-34	33.1	31.3	32.6
35-39	12.3	12.2	12.3
Total 40 and Over	39.9	42.8	40.2
40-44	10.2	11.1	9.4
45-54	15.6	16.4	14.7
55-64	10.7	11.5	11.7
65 and Over	3.4	3.8	4.4

A report entitled *Year-End Economic Review, 1987 and New Initiatives in Economic Development* was recently presented at the Fifteenth Annual Governor's Economic Development Conference. This report, jointly prepared by the Maine Department of Labor, Maine State Planning Office, and Maine Department of Economic and Community Development, reviews the Maine economy in 1987 and outlines what initiatives the State has taken and will take to address the needs for economic growth.

For a complimentary copy of this report, please contact the Maine Department of Labor, Bureau of Employment Security, Division of Economic Analysis and Research, 20 Union Street, Augusta, Maine 04330-0390, telephone (207) 289-2271.

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